

RECOGNIZING SHELTON JOHNSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an amazing Californian, Mr. Shelton Johnson. I commend his contributions to the National Park Service and his dedication to telling the stories of our history that often go untold.

Mr. JOHNSON has worked as a park ranger for over 35 years. In that time, he has enthusiastically recounted the special contributions of Black Americans to preserving Yosemite's wilderness. The all-Black 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments, known as the Buffalo Soldiers, were among the first park rangers, even before the founding of the National Park system.

I am inspired by Mr. JOHNSON's creativity and commitment to sharing our diverse history. Mr. JOHNSON was recently awarded the American Park Experience Award for his lifelong efforts in helping more families and youth feel welcome as they see their stories told.

As a fellow teacher and mom to three enthusiastic, park-loving kids, I am honored to recognize him today.

COMPETITION IN CAPITALISM

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, a strong capitalist economy requires competition. Weak antitrust enforcement has atrophied the bones of our economy. When our economy lacks competition, we see prices go up, wages drop, and innovation stall.

Last year, my office released a report detailing how Big Pharma's market consolidation creates real harms for families. Too many Americans can't afford lifesaving prescription drugs because Big Pharma buys out its competitors so that it can continue its corporate abuse.

We have also seen how Big Tech's market consolidation reduces consumer choice, stifles competition, and harms small businesses.

Competition is central to healthy capitalism. Reining in corporate greed, holding big businesses accountable, and cracking down on monopolies will strengthen our economy.

Congress must tackle market consolidation to create a level playing field for all businesses and to strengthen our capitalist economy.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, last night President Biden tried to paint his administration in a positive light during the State of the Union address, but the American people know better.

We are facing an unprecedented number of crises: an economic crisis, a border crisis, a crime crisis, an energy crisis, and an unprecedented national security crisis. Every one of these crises have been either created or made worse

by President Biden and congressional Democrats.

Simply put, Democrats own these crises, but I am sure—and we did see—an attempt by President Biden to dress up these disasters and highlight victories that simply don't exist.

While President Biden tries to take credit for accomplishments he had no responsibility in delivering, House Republicans remain committed to showcasing to the American people what we stand for: unleashing American energy independence, peace through strength, respecting the Constitution, putting power back in the hands of parents, lowering taxes, balancing budgets, and securing our southern border.

Mr. Speaker, if given the opportunity, Republicans will lead on these issues, and I look forward to delivering on the day that that happens.

SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support to the people of Ukraine. All Americans stand in solidarity against Russian aggression, and we pray for peace.

However, as the conflict escalates and we call for not one more drop of Russian oil to be imported into this Nation, the United States must make energy independence a priority.

Prior to the invasion, gas here at home was already 40 percent higher than it was 12 months ago, marking an 8-year high. Now, as the world sanctions Russia, prices are climbing yet again, and experts predict Americans could soon be paying more than \$5 for a gallon of gas.

In response, the President announced that he is releasing 30 million barrels from the U.S. strategic oil reserves. It sounds great, but considering the United States uses more than 20 million barrels a day, this is nothing more than a gimmick. A day-and-a-half worth of oil is not going to reduce costs for American businesses, workers, and families in my district.

There must be a comprehensive plan that leads us back to the energy independence we enjoyed during the Trump administration, and it starts with lifting the President's moratorium on new oil and gas drilling on public lands, exploring in ANWR and off our coasts, and finishing the Keystone XL pipeline.

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RECOGNIZING THE CAVE SPRING CHEERLEADING TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the student athletes on the Cave Spring High School cheerleading team in Roanoke, Virginia, for winning its division's State championship toward the end of last year. The Knights cheerleading squad is often referred to as a dynasty, and this victory marks the team's fourth State title in 9 years—and in those other 5 years they placed second each time.

The team had to overcome several obstacles this season, but through it

all they persevered. Cave Spring senior cheerleader, Abby Holbrook, said it best when she said: "We work so hard during the season, and it feels like all the hard work is paying off."

Yes, Abby's hard work certainly did pay off. With the graduating class of 2022 having won the title their freshman and senior years, they are proud of the legacy they leave behind, and rightly so.

Congratulations to Cave Spring on this accomplishment, and I wish them the best of luck again next season.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to follow my friend from Virginia (Mr. CLINE).

Mr. Speaker, last night when we heard the President of the United States address this Nation and this body in this Chamber as well as our colleagues on the other side of the Capitol in the Senate, you would think there was some sort of magic moment that the virus has suddenly left the Earth and now all of a sudden we are free here on the floor of the House of Representatives to be without masks.

It was just coincidentally timed—just coincidentally timed—when the State of the Union is upon us. A number of States have lifted their mandates—all suddenly coincidentally timed—around the State of the Union. And I was interested in watching the Speaker of the House suddenly saying: Well, it is a new moment in COVID.

I listened to my colleagues from Texas just a moment ago on the other side of the aisle talking about how we have had this great victory through the action of the genius of our Federal Government to free us from the perils of this virus.

Mr. Speaker, tell that to the children who have been sitting in the corners of classrooms wearing masks. Tell that to the members of our military and the members of our Border Patrol who are the so-called heroes. I say so-called because my Democratic colleagues a year ago were calling healthcare workers heroes, and now they are forcing them still to lose their job if they don't take a jab because of the wisdom of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that they know best. They know best.

The President stood there arrogantly in that posture preaching to the United States public and to this body yesterday and talked about how we are going to beat this virus and oh, by the way, suddenly magically we need to fund the police. Go back and look at every statement that has been made by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle over the last 2 years talking about defunding the police. We know who is defunding the police across the country, and it sure as heck isn't Republicans. It is Democrats across this country.